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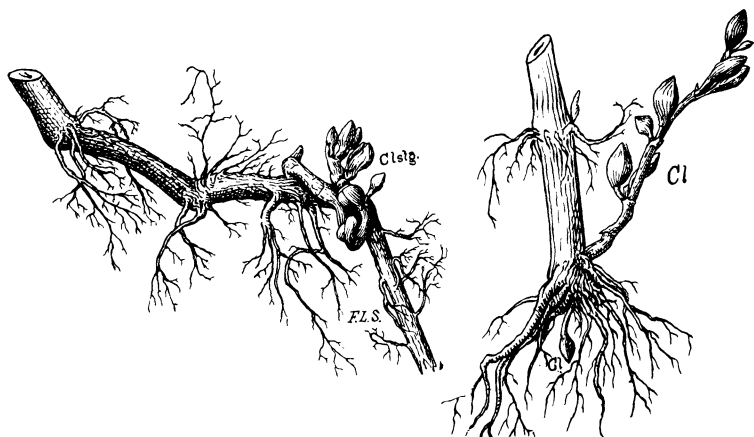
50–80  $\mu$  long.—On stems, leaves and pods of *Cassia nictitans*, Auburn, Ala., *Geo. F. Atkinson*; Starkville, Miss., *S. M. Tracy*.

Frequently there is very little of the fungus on the leaves, it being chiefly caulicolous. Occasionally it is abundant also on the leaves, but the sori are comparatively small. Sometimes all the sori on the leaves contain only uredospores, but again teleutospores as well.

I have had an opportunity of comparing this species with *R. stictica*, Berk. & Br., n. 554 Myc. Univ., *R. glandulaeformis* Berk. & Cur., n. 1251 Myc. Univ., and *R. Texanus* Ell. & Galloway.

I have also collected at Auburn, during the month of September, 1891, *R. glandulaeformis* B. & C. on *Tephrosia hispidula* and *Virginiana*, and my assistant, Mr. B. M. Duggar, has collected it on *Tephrosia spicata*. The specimens on *Tephrosia Virginiana* are of interest from the fact that the fungus is very abundant on the stems, the sori being longer and often confluent, presenting much the same appearance to the unaided eye as *Ravenelia Cassiæcola* on *Cassia nictitans*.—GEO. F. ATKINSON, *Department of Biology, Ala. Poly. Inst., Auburn*.

**Cleistogamy in *Polygonum acre*.**—Apropos of Mr. Meehan's discovery of cleistogamy in *Polygonum*, I would record the observation of cleistogamous flowers on the same species, *P. acre*, at Knoxville, Tenn., on the 24th of September. For the accompanying illustrations, showing



the appearance of plants in question, I am indebted to Prof. Scribner. I have searched for cleistogamic flowers on other species of *Polygonum*, but without success.—T. H. KEARNEY, JR., *University of Tennessee*.

**Mutilation of the flower of *Tecoma radicans*.**—During the past twenty years I have frequently found flowers of our common Trumpet

Vine split at the lower portion of the tube; the slit usually extending through the upper two-thirds of the calyx, the lower portion of the corolla-tube and down to the nectary. All this time I have been on the lookout for the author of these depredations, and only during the past month have I been successful in detecting him at his work.

For several years my suspicion has been resting on *Icterus baltimore*, for I have on a number of occasions seen him fly from a clump of these flowers in such a manner as to make me believe he had been at work on them; but I did not wish to whisper such a report about a bird of such an unusual beauty, unless I knew it to be true. But several weeks since, while sitting concealed by a window, which is within a few feet of a thrifty Trumpet Vine, then in full bloom, I detected a pair of Baltimore Orioles in the act of slitting the flowers as above described and taking the nectar; since then this observation has been repeated several times.—JACOB SCHNECK, *Mt. Carmel, Ill.*

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## EDITORIAL.

AT THE Washington meeting of the American Association notice was given of an amendment to divide the Section of Biology. Of course this means to separate the zoologists and botanists; and as the matter will be up for discussion and decision at the next meeting, it is just as well for botanists to begin considering its advisability. The notice of amendment was prompted by two considerations: (1) The extremely crowded program, which compelled the cutting down and mutilation of some of the most important zoological and botanical papers, and also entirely prevented in many cases the presentation of papers by some of our most distinguished biologists. (2) The numerous technical papers in each biological division which were unintelligible to the other. The first consideration may possibly be weakened by the fact that there was, at Washington, a conjunction of an unusually large attendance of biologists and an unusually short allowance of time for reading papers. But three days were allowed, four being the usual number. However, the attendance will be more likely to increase than to diminish, and the working days of the association will probably remain those of the Washington meeting. The second consideration is also an important one, for, with the reading of every paper it becomes very apparent that "one-half the world doesn't care how the other half lives." Upon the whole, the GAZETTE is now inclined to favor the amendment, providing such a division will not diminish the in-